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17                   UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
18                   CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
WESTERN DIVISION

19 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

20                   Plaintiff,

21                   v.

22 HILL BROTHERS CHEMICAL CO.

23                   Defendant

CV 15-01545-CJC (MANx)

24                   ///  
25                   ///  
26                   ///  
27                   ///  
28                   ///

CONSENT DECREE

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1      **I. BACKGROUND**

2            A. The United States of America (“United States”), on behalf of the  
3 Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) has  
4 filed a Complaint in this matter pursuant to Section 107 of the Comprehensive  
5 Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (“CERCLA”), 42 U.S.C. §  
6 9607, seeking reimbursement of response costs incurred and to be incurred for  
7 response actions taken at or in connection with the release or threatened release of  
8 hazardous substances at the Puente Valley Operable Unit (“PVOU”), Area 4, of the  
9 San Gabriel Valley Superfund Site, Los Angeles County, California (the “Site”).

10          B. This Consent Decree provides for the reimbursement of a portion of the  
11 United States’ Past Response Costs at this Site by Hill Brothers Chemical Company,  
12 (“Settling Defendant”).

13          C. By entering into this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant does not admit  
14 liability to or arising out of the transactions or occurrences alleged in the Complaint or  
15 to any other person related to the Site.

16          D. The United States and Settling Defendant agree, and this Court by  
17 entering this Consent Decree finds, that this Consent Decree has been negotiated by  
18 the Parties in good faith, that settlement of this matter will avoid prolonged and  
19 complicated litigation between the Parties, and that this Consent Decree is fair,  
20 reasonable, and in the public interest.

21          THEREFORE, with the consent of the Parties to this Decree, it is ORDERED,  
22 ADJUDGED, AND DECREED:

23      **II. JURISDICTION**

24          1. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant  
25 to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1345, 42 U.S.C. § 9607, and 9613(b), and also has personal  
26 jurisdiction over Settling Defendant in this action. Settling Defendant consents to and  
27 shall not challenge entry of this Consent Decree or this Court’s jurisdiction to enter  
28 and enforce this Consent Decree.

1       **III. PARTIES BOUND**

2           2. This Consent Decree is binding upon the United States and upon the  
3 Settling Defendant and its beneficiaries, heirs, successors, and assigns. Any change in  
4 ownership or corporate or other legal status, including but not limited to, any transfer  
5 of assets of real or personal property, shall in no way alter the status or responsibilities  
6 of Settling Defendant under this Consent Decree.

7       **IV. DEFINITIONS**

8           3. Unless otherwise expressly provided herein, terms used in this Consent  
9 Decree which are defined in CERCLA or in regulations promulgated under CERCLA  
10 shall have the meaning assigned to them in CERCLA or in such regulations.  
11 Whenever the terms listed below are used in this Consent Decree, the following  
12 definitions shall apply:

13           a. “Basin-wide Response Costs” shall mean costs, including but not  
14 limited to direct and indirect costs, including accrued Interest, that the United States  
15 has paid for basin-wide (non-operable unit) response actions in connection with the  
16 San Gabriel Valley Superfund Sites, Areas 1-4.

17           b. “Carrier Consent Decree” shall mean the consent decree entered on  
18 April 28, 2006 in the matter of *United States v. Carrier Corporation*, Civ. Action No.  
19 05-6022-ABC (FMOx) (C.D. Cal.), relevant portions of which are attached hereto as  
20 Appendix A.

21           c. “CERCLA” shall mean the Comprehensive Environmental  
22 Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 9601, et  
23 seq.

24           d. “Consent Decree” shall mean this Consent Decree and Appendix A  
25 attached hereto.

26           e. “Day” shall mean a calendar day. In computing any period of time  
27 under this Consent Decree, where the last day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or federal  
28 holiday, the period shall run until the close of business of the next working day.

1               f.     “DOJ” shall mean the United States Department of Justice and any  
2 successor departments, agencies, or instrumentalities of the United States.

3               g.     “Effective Date” shall mean the date of entry of this Consent  
4 Decree.

5               h.     “EPA” shall mean the United States Environmental Protection  
6 Agency and any successor departments, agencies, or instrumentalities of the United  
7 States.

8               i.     “EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund” shall mean the Hazardous  
9 Substance Superfund established by the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. § 9507.

10              j.     “ESD” shall mean the Explanation of Significant Differences  
11 issued by EPA on June 14, 2005 for the Record of Decision.

12              k.     “Facility” shall mean the Site.

13              l.     “Future Response Costs” shall mean all costs, including but not  
14 limited to Oversight Costs, direct or indirect costs, and Basin-wide Response Costs  
15 allocated to the Site, including Interest, that the United States or any third party pays  
16 or incurs at or relating to the Site after the date of entry of this Consent Decree, but  
17 prior to the later of (i) the date eight (8) years from the Operational and Functional  
18 Date of the Carrier Consent Decree, or (ii) the date of issuance of a final Record of  
19 Decision for the Site.

20              m.    “Interest” shall mean interest at the applicable rate specified for  
21 interest on investments of the Hazardous Substance Superfund established by 26  
22 U.S.C. § 9507, compounded annually on October 1 of each year, in accordance with  
23 42 U.S.C. § 9607(a).

24              n.     “Oversight Costs” shall mean all direct and indirect costs,  
25 including Interest, that the United States incurs in connection with monitoring and  
26 supervising performance of the Response Work by other persons.

27              o.     “Paragraph” shall mean a portion of this Consent Decree identified  
28 by an Arabic numeral or an upper or lower case letter.

1           p.     “Parties” shall mean the United States and the Settling Defendant.

2           q.     “Past Response Costs” shall mean all costs, including but not  
3 limited to Oversight Costs, direct and indirect costs, and Basin-wide Response Costs  
4 allocated to the Site, including Interest, that the United States or any third party has  
5 paid or incurred at or relating to the Site through and including the date of entry of this  
6 Consent Decree.

7           r.     “Plaintiff” shall mean the United States.

8           s.     “Record of Decision” or “ROD” shall mean the September 30,  
9 1998 EPA Interim Record of Decision for the Puente Valley Operable Unit (Area 4)  
10 of the San Gabriel Valley Superfund Sites, Areas 1-4.

11          t.     “Response Work” shall mean the design and implementation of  
12 any remedial measures, including the operation and maintenance thereof,  
13 encompassed within the Record of Decision as modified by the ESD.

14          u.     “Section” shall mean a portion of this Consent Decree identified by  
15 a Roman numeral.

16          v.     “Settling Defendant” shall mean Hill Brothers Chemical Company.

17          w.     “Site” shall mean the Facility, which consists of an area of  
18 groundwater contamination in Los Angeles County, California, located in the  
19 geographic area designated on the National Priorities List as the San Gabriel Valley  
20 Superfund Site, Area 4 and identified as the Puente Valley Operable Unit. See 49  
21 Fed. Reg. 19480 (1984).

22          x.     “State” shall mean the State of California.

23          y.     “United States” shall mean the United States of America, including  
24 its departments, agencies, and instrumentalities.

25          **V. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

26          4.     By entering into this Consent Decree, the mutual objective of the Parties  
27 is for Settling Defendant to make a cash payment to address its liability for the Site as  
28 provided in the Covenant Not to Sue by Plaintiff in Section VIII, and subject to the

1 Reservations of Rights by the United States in Section VIII, Paragraph 15.

2 **VI. REIMBURSEMENT OF RESPONSE COSTS**

3       5. Payments to the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund. Settling  
4 Defendant shall pay to the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund the amount of One  
5 Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$135,000) in reimbursement of Past Response  
6 Costs. Payment shall be made as follows:

7           a. Settling Defendant shall, within thirty (30) Days after entry of this  
8 Consent Decree, remit the principal of One Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Dollars  
9 (\$135,000) to the United States. Payment to the United States shall be made by  
10 FedWire Electronic Funds Transfer ("EFT") to the U.S. Department of Justice in  
11 accordance with current EFT procedures, referencing the USAO File Number, EPA  
12 Region IX, the Site/Spill ID Number 09-8V, and DOJ Case Number 90-11-2-354/35.  
13 Payment shall be made in accordance with instructions provided to Settling Defendant  
14 by the Financial Litigation Unit of the United States Attorney's Office for the Central  
15 District of California following lodging of the Consent Decree. Any payments  
16 received by the Department of Justice after 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time shall be credited  
17 on the next business Day. Settling Defendant shall send notice to the EPA and the  
18 DOJ that payment has been made in accordance with Section XIV (Notices and  
19 Submissions) and to David Wood, MTS-4-2, Supervisory Accountant, U.S. EPA,  
20 Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, California 94105.

21           b. The One Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Dollars (\$135,000) paid  
22 by Settling Defendant to the United States shall be deposited in the "San Gabriel  
23 Valley Superfund Sites, Area 4, Special Account" within the EPA Hazardous  
24 Substance Superfund. This Special Account shall be retained and used to conduct or  
25 finance response actions at or in connection with the Site or the San Gabriel Valley  
26 Superfund Sites (Areas 1-4), or may be transferred by EPA from this Special Account  
27 to the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund.

1           **VII. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS**

2           6.     Interest on Late Payments. In the event that any payment required under  
 3 Section VI (Reimbursement of Response Costs) or Section VII, Paragraph 7  
 4 (Stipulated Penalties) is not received when due, Interest shall continue to accrue on the  
 5 unpaid balance through the date of payment. Settling Defendant shall be liable for  
 6 any such Interest pertaining to the payments required under Section VI, Paragraph 5.a.  
 7 (Reimbursement of Response Costs).

8           7.     Stipulated Penalties.

9           a.     Settling Defendant shall be liable for stipulated penalties for late  
 10 payments under Section VI, Paragraph 5.a. (Reimbursement of Response Costs) and  
 11 for the Interest on late payments under Section VI, Paragraph 5.a. as required under  
 12 Section VII, Paragraph 6. The stipulated penalties shall be in the following amounts  
 13 per violation per Day that any such payment is late:

| <u>Penalty Per Violation Per Day</u> | <u>Period of Noncompliance</u> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| \$500                                | 1st through 14th Day           |
| \$1,500                              | 15th through 30th Day          |
| \$2,500                              | 31st Day and beyond            |

14           b.     Settling Defendant shall be liable for stipulated penalties in the  
 15 amount of \$1,500 per Day per violation of the provisions contained in Sections XII  
 16 (Access To Information), and XIII (Retention of Records).

17           8.     All Interest and penalties set forth under this Section shall begin to accrue  
 18 on the Day a violation occurs, and shall continue to accrue through the final Day of  
 19 the correction of the noncompliance. Nothing herein shall prevent the simultaneous  
 20 accrual of separate penalties for separate violations of this Consent Decree.

21           9.     Interest and stipulated penalties shall accrue as provided in Paragraphs 6  
 22 and 7, regardless of whether EPA has notified Settling Defendant of the violation or  
 23 made a demand for payment, but need be paid only upon demand.

24           10.    Interest and stipulated penalties set forth under this Section shall be due

1 and payable within thirty (30) Days of the date of demand for payment. All payments  
2 to the United States under this Paragraph shall be made by certified or cashier's check  
3 made payable to the "EPA Hazardous Substances Superfund," shall be forwarded to  
4 the U.S. EPA, Region IX, Superfund Payments, Cincinnati Finance Center, P.O. Box  
5 979076, St. Louis, Missouri 63197-9000, shall indicate that payment is for Interest  
6 and/or stipulated penalties, and shall reference EPA Region IX, the Site/Spill  
7 Identification Numbers 09-8V, the USAO File Number, the DOJ Case Number 90-11-  
8 2-354/35, and the name and address of the party making payment. Copies of check(s)  
9 paid pursuant to this Paragraph, and any accompanying transmittal letter(s), shall be  
10 forwarded to DOJ and EPA as provided in Section XIV (Notices and Submissions),  
11 and to David Wood, MTS-4-2, Supervisory Accountant, U.S. EPA Region IX, 75  
12 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, California 94105.

13 11. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section, the United States  
14 may, in its unreviewable discretion, waive any portion of Interest or stipulated  
15 penalties that have accrued pursuant to this Consent Decree.

16 12. Payments made under this Section shall be in addition to any other  
17 remedies or sanctions available to Plaintiff by virtue of Settling Defendant's failure to  
18 comply with the requirements of this Consent Decree.

19 13. If the United States brings an action against Settling Defendant to enforce  
20 this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant shall reimburse the United States for all costs  
21 of such action, including but not limited to costs of attorney time.

22 **VIII. COVENANT NOT TO SUE BY PLAINTIFF**

23 14. Covenant Not to Sue. Except as specifically provided in Paragraph 15  
24 (Reservation of Rights), Plaintiff covenants not to sue or to take any administrative  
25 action against Settling Defendant for performance of Response Work, Past Response  
26 Costs, and Future Response Costs, pursuant to Section 7003 of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. §  
27 6973, or Sections 106 and 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606 and 9607(a). This  
28 covenant shall take effect upon receipt by Plaintiff of the payments set forth in

1 Paragraph 5. This covenant is conditioned upon Settling Defendant's satisfactory  
2 performance of its obligations under this Consent Decree. This covenant extends only  
3 to Settling Defendant and does not extend to any other person.

4       15. Reservation of Rights. The covenant not to sue set forth in Paragraph 14  
5 does not pertain to any matters other than those expressly specified therein. Plaintiff  
6 reserves, and this Consent Decree is without prejudice to all rights against Settling  
7 Defendant with respect to other matters, including but not limited to:

8           a. liability for failure by Settling Defendant to meet a requirement of  
9 this Consent Decree;

10           b. liability for damages for injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural  
11 resources, and for the costs of any natural resource damage assessments;

12           c. criminal liability; and

13           d. liability for response actions and response costs incurred or to be  
14 incurred by the United States not covered as matters addressed as set forth in  
15 Paragraph 21 of this Consent Decree, including but not limited to liability for any  
16 response actions and response costs at the Site that occur after the later of (i) the date  
17 eight (8) years from the Operational and Functional Date of the Carrier Consent  
18 Decree, or (ii) the date of issuance of a final Record of Decision for the Site.

19 **IX. COVENANT NOT TO SUE BY SETTLING DEFENDANT**

20       16. Settling Defendant covenants not to sue and agrees not to assert any  
21 claims or causes of action against Plaintiff or its contractors or employees with respect  
22 to Response Work, Past Response Costs, and Future Response Costs, as set forth in  
23 this Consent Decree, including but not limited to:

24           a. any direct or indirect claims for reimbursement from the  
25 Hazardous Substance Superfund based on Sections 106(b)(2), 107, 111, 112, or 113 of  
26 CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9606(b)(2), 9607, 9611, 9612, or 9613, or any other provision  
27 of law;

28           b. any claims arising out of costs or response actions at or in

1 connection with the Site, including any claim under the United States Constitution, the  
2 California Constitution, the Tucker Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1491, the Equal Access to Justice  
3 Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, as amended, or at common law; and

4 c. any claims against the United States pursuant to Sections 107 and  
5 113 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9607 and 9613, related to the Site.

6 17. Nothing in this Consent Decree shall be deemed to constitute approval or  
7 preauthorization of a claim within the meaning of Section 111 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C.  
8 § 9611, or 40 C.F.R. § 300.700(d).

9 **X. EFFECT OF SETTLEMENT/CONTRIBUTION PROTECTION**

10 18. Nothing in this Consent Decree shall be construed to create any rights in,  
11 or grant any cause of action to, any person not a Party to this Consent Decree. The  
12 preceding sentence shall not be construed to waive or nullify any rights that any  
13 person not a signatory to this Decree may have under applicable law. Each of the  
14 Parties expressly reserves any and all rights (including, but not limited to, any right to  
15 contribution), defenses, claims, demands, and causes of action which each Party may  
16 have with respect to any matter, transaction, or occurrence relating in any way to the  
17 Site against any person not a Party hereto.

18 19. The Parties agree that in consideration of the payment made by Settling  
19 Defendant and the execution of this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant has resolved  
20 its liability to Plaintiff and is entitled to protection from contribution actions or claims  
21 as provided by Section 113(f)(2) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9613(f)(2), for matters  
22 addressed in this Consent Decree, conditioned only upon entry of this Consent Decree.  
23 The matters addressed in this Consent Decree are: Response Work; Past Response  
24 Costs; and Future Response Costs. The matters addressed exclude those response  
25 actions and response costs to which Plaintiff has reserved its rights under this Consent  
26 Decree.

27 20. Settling Defendant agrees that, with respect to any suit or claim for  
28 contribution brought by Settling Defendant for matters related to this Consent Decree,

1 Settling Defendant will notify DOJ and EPA, in writing not later than sixty (60) Days  
2 prior to the initiation of such suit or claim. Settling Defendant also agrees that, with  
3 respect to any suit or claim for contribution brought against Settling Defendant for  
4 matters related to this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant will notify DOJ and EPA in  
5 writing within ten (10) Days of service of the complaint or claims upon Settling  
6 Defendant. In addition, Settling Defendant shall notify DOJ and EPA within ten (10)  
7 Days of service or receipt of any motion for summary judgment or any order from a  
8 court setting a case for trial, for matters related to this Consent Decree.

9       21. In any subsequent administrative or judicial proceeding initiated by the  
10 United States for injunctive relief, recovery of response costs, or other relief relating  
11 to the Site, Settling Defendant shall not assert, and may not maintain, any defense or  
12 claims based upon the principles of waiver, res judicata, collateral estoppel, issue  
13 preclusion, claim-splitting, or other defenses based upon any contention that the  
14 claims raised by the United States in the subsequent proceeding were or should have  
15 been brought in the instant case; provided, however, that nothing in this Paragraph  
16 affects the enforceability of the Covenant Not to Sue by Plaintiff set forth in Section  
17 VIII.

18 **XI. SITE ACCESS**

19       22. Commencing upon the date of lodging of this Consent Decree, Settling  
20 Defendant agrees to provide the United States and the State of California and their  
21 representatives, including the EPA, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, and  
22 the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, and their contractors, access  
23 at all reasonable times to the property within the Site owned or controlled by Settling  
24 Defendant to which access is determined by the EPA to be required for the  
25 implementation of this Consent Decree, or for the purpose of conducting any response  
26 activity related to the Site, including but not limited to:

27           a. Monitoring of investigation, removal, remedial or other activities  
28 at the Site;

- 1                   b.     Verifying any data or information submitted to the United States or  
2 to the State of California;
- 3                   c.     Conducting investigations relating to contamination at or near the  
4 Site;
- 5                   d.     Obtaining samples;
- 6                   e.     Assessing the need for, planning, or implementing response actions  
7 at or near the Site; and
- 8                   f.     Inspecting and copying records, operating logs, contracts, or other  
9 documents maintained or generated by Settling Defendant or its agents, consistent  
10 with Section XII (Access to Information).

11               23. Notwithstanding any provision of this Consent Decree, the United States  
12 retains all of its access authorities and rights, including enforcement authorities related  
13 thereto, under CERCLA, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. §  
14 6927, and any other applicable statutes or regulations.

15 **XII. ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

16               24. Settling Defendant shall provide to Plaintiff, upon request, copies of all  
17 documents and information within its possession or control or that of its contractors or  
18 agents relating in any manner to response actions taken at the Site or the liability of  
19 any person for response actions conducted and to be conducted at the Site, including,  
20 but not limited to, sampling, analysis, chain of custody records, manifests, trucking  
21 logs, receipts, reports, sample traffic routing, correspondence, or other documents or  
22 information related to the Site.

23               25. **Confidential Business Information and Privileged Documents.**

24               a.     Settling Defendant may assert business confidentiality claims  
25 covering part or all of the documents or information submitted to Plaintiff under this  
26 Consent Decree to the extent permitted by and in accordance with Section 104(e)(7)  
27 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9604(e)(7), and 40 C.F.R. § 2.203(b). Documents or  
28 information determined to be confidential by Plaintiff will be accorded the protection

1 specified in 40 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart B. If no claim of confidentiality accompanies  
 2 documents or information when they are submitted to the Plaintiff, or if Plaintiff has  
 3 notified Settling Defendant that the documents or information are not confidential  
 4 under the standards of Section 104(e)(7) of CERCLA, the public may be given access  
 5 to such documents or information without further notice to Settling Defendant.

6       b.     Settling Defendant may assert that certain documents, records, or  
 7 other information are privileged under the attorney-client privilege or any other  
 8 privilege recognized by federal law. If Settling Defendant asserts such a privilege in  
 9 lieu of providing documents, it shall provide Plaintiff with the following: 1) the title of  
 10 the document, record, or information; 2) the date of the document, record, or  
 11 information; 3) the name and title of the author of the document, record, or  
 12 information; 4) the name and title of each addressee and recipient; 5) a description of  
 13 the subject of the document, record or information; and 6) the privilege asserted.  
 14 However, no documents, reports, or other information created or generated pursuant to  
 15 the requirements of this or any other consent decree with Plaintiff shall be withheld on  
 16 the grounds that they are privileged. If a claim of privilege applies only to a portion of  
 17 a document, the document shall be provided to Plaintiff in redacted form to mask the  
 18 privileged information only. Settling Defendant shall retain all records and documents  
 19 that it claims to be privileged until Plaintiff has had a reasonable opportunity to  
 20 dispute the privilege claim and any such dispute has been resolved in Settling  
 21 Defendant's favor.

22       26.    No claim of confidentiality shall be made with respect to any data,  
 23 including but not limited to, all sampling, analytical, monitoring, hydrogeologic,  
 24 scientific, chemical, or engineering data, or any other documents or information  
 25 evidencing conditions at or around the Site.

26 **XIII. RETENTION OF RECORDS**

27       27.    Until ten (10) years after the entry of this Consent Decree, Settling  
 28 Defendant shall preserve and retain all records and documents now in its possession or

1 control, or which come into its possession or control thereafter, that relate in any  
2 manner to response actions taken at the Site or the liability of any person for response  
3 actions conducted and to be conducted at the Site, regardless of any corporate  
4 retention policy to the contrary. After five (5) years, Settling Defendant may contact  
5 EPA in writing to request instructions as to whether such records and documents shall  
6 be maintained for the remaining five (5) year retention period, or whether such records  
7 and documents may be discarded. No retained records or documents shall be disposed  
8 of prior to the ten (10) year retention period, unless Settling Defendant receives  
9 instructions from EPA specifically permitting Settling Defendant to dispose of such  
10 records and documents.

11       28. After the conclusion of the ten (10) year document retention period in the  
12 preceding Paragraph, Settling Defendant shall notify EPA and DOJ at least ninety (90)  
13 Days prior to the destruction of any such records or documents, and, upon request by  
14 EPA or DOJ, Settling Defendant shall deliver any such records or documents to EPA  
15 subject to the same privilege provisions set forth in Section XII (Access To  
16 Information).

17       29. By signing this Consent Decree, Settling Defendant certifies that, after  
18 thorough inquiry, to the best of its knowledge and belief, Settling Defendant has not  
19 altered, mutilated, discarded, destroyed, or otherwise disposed of any records,  
20 documents, or other information relating to their potential liability regarding the Site,  
21 after notification of potential liability or the filing of a suit against Settling Defendant  
22 regarding the Site; and that Settling Defendant has fully complied with any and all  
23 EPA requests for information regarding the Site pursuant to Sections 104(e) and  
24 122(e) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9604(e) and 9622(e), and Section 3007 of RCRA,  
25 42 U.S.C. § 6927.

26 **XIV. NOTICES AND SUBMISSIONS**

27       30. Whenever, under the terms of this Consent Decree, notice is required to  
28 be given or a document is required to be forwarded by one party to another, it shall be

1 directed to the individuals at the addresses specified below, unless those individuals or  
2 their successors give notice of a change to the other Parties in writing. Written notice  
3 as specified herein shall constitute complete satisfaction of any written notice  
4 requirement of the Consent Decree with respect to the United States (DOJ and EPA)  
5 and Settling Defendant, respectively.

6 As to the United States:

7 As to DOJ:

8 W. Benjamin Fisherow  
9 Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section  
Environment and Natural Resources Division  
10 U.S. Department of Justice (DJ # 90-11-2-354/35)  
P.O. Box 7611  
11 Washington, DC 20044-7611

12 Elise S. Feldman  
13 Senior Counsel  
Environmental Enforcement Section  
14 Environment and Natural Resources Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
15 301 Howard Street, Suite 1050  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
16 Telephone: (415) 744-6470  
17 E-mail: Elise.Feldman@usdoj.gov

18 As to EPA:

19 Larry Bradfish (ORC-3)  
20 Assistant Regional Counsel  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX  
21 75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

22 As to Settling Defendant:

23 Ron Hill, President  
24 Hill Brothers Chemical Company  
1675 N. Main Street  
25 Orange, CA 92867

26 Steve C. Leonard  
27 Leonard & Associates  
220 Newport Center Dr. #11-243  
28 Newport Beach, CA 92660

1 Telephone: (949) 759-9600 x106  
2 E-mail: steveleonard@legalarmy.com

3 Settling Defendant may change the identity or contact information for its agent  
4 at any time by written notice to the Court and to the United States.

5 **XV. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION**

6 31. This Court shall retain jurisdiction over this matter for the purpose of  
7 interpreting and enforcing the terms of this Consent Decree.

8 **XVI. INTEGRATION/APPENDICES**

9 32. This Consent Decree and its appendix constitute the final, complete, and  
10 exclusive agreement and understanding among the Parties with respect to the  
11 settlement embodied in this Consent Decree. The Parties acknowledge that there are  
12 no representations, agreements, or understandings relating to the settlement other than  
13 those expressly contained in this Consent Decree. The following appendix is attached  
14 to and incorporated into this Consent Decree: "Appendix A," which is the relevant  
portion of the Carrier Consent Decree.

15 **XVII. LODGING AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

16 33. This Consent Decree shall be lodged with the Court for a period of not  
17 less than thirty (30) Days for public notice and comment. The United States reserves  
18 the right to withdraw or withhold its consent if the comments regarding the Consent  
19 Decree disclose facts or considerations which indicate that this Consent Decree is  
20 inappropriate, improper, or inadequate. Settling Defendant consents to the entry of  
21 this Consent Decree without further notice.

22 34. If for any reason this Court should decline to approve this Consent  
23 Decree in the form presented, this agreement is voidable at the sole discretion of any  
24 party and the terms of the agreement may not be used as evidence in any litigation  
25 between the Parties.

26 **XVIII. EFFECTIVE DATE**

27 35. The effective date of this Consent Decree shall be the date upon which it  
28 is entered by the Court.

## **XIX. SIGNATORIES/SERVICE**

36. Each undersigned representative of Settling Defendant and the Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the United States Department of Justice, certifies that he or she is authorized to enter into the terms and conditions of this Consent Decree and to execute and bind legally such Party to this document.

37. Settling Defendant hereby agrees not to oppose entry of this Consent Decree by this Court or to challenge any provision of this Consent Decree, unless the United States has notified Settling Defendant in writing that it no longer supports entry of the Consent Decree.

38. Settling Defendant shall identify, on the attached signature page, the name and address of an agent who is authorized to accept service of process by mail on behalf of that Party with respect to all matters arising under or relating to this Consent Decree. Settling Defendant hereby agrees to accept service in that manner and to waive the formal service requirements set forth in Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and any applicable local rules of this Court, including, but not limited to, service of a summons.

## **XX. FINAL JUDGMENT**

39. Upon approval and entry of this Consent Decree by this Court, this Consent Decree shall constitute a final judgment between the United States and Settling Defendant. The Court finds that there is no just reason for delay and therefore enters this judgment as the final judgment under Fed. R. Civ. P. 54 and 58.

SO ORDERED THIS 16<sup>th</sup> DAY OF April, 2015.

C. J. C.  
Honorable Cormac J. Carney  
United States District Judge

THE UNDERSIGNED PARTY enters into this Consent Decree, relating to the San Gabriel Valley Superfund Site, Area 4, and further identified as the Puente Valley Operable Unit.

# FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Dated:

## JOHN C. CRUDEN

~~ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL~~

Assistant Attorney General  
Environment & Natural Resources Division  
United States Department of Justice

Dated: 3/3/15

ELISE FELDMAN

## **Senior Counsel**

## Environmental Enforcement Section

## Environment & Natural Resources Div

# United States Department of Justice

301 Howard Street, Suite 1050

San Francisco, CA 94105

Telephone: (415) 744-6470

1

2

3 Dated: 11/20/14

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Dated: Oct. 21, 2014

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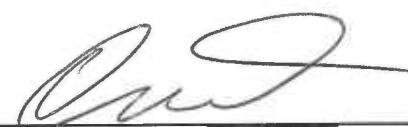
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ENRIQUE MANZANILLA

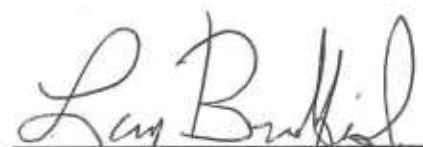
Director

Superfund Division

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105



LARRY BRADFISH

Assistant Regional Counsel

Office of Regional Counsel

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX

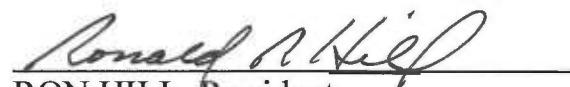
75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

1 THE UNDERSIGNED PARTY enters into this Consent Decree, relating to the  
2 San Gabriel Valley Superfund Site, Area 4, and further identified as the Puente Valley  
3 Operable Unit.

4  
5 FOR SETTLING DEFENDANT  
6

7 Dated: 10-16-14

8   
9 RON HILL, President  
Hill Brothers Chemical Company

10  
11 Agent authorized to receive service of process pursuant to Paragraph 38:  
12

13 Ronald R. Hill  
14 1625 N. MAIN ST.  
15 ORANGE, CA. 92867  
16 \_\_\_\_\_  
17 \_\_\_\_\_  
18 \_\_\_\_\_  
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3                   **APPENDIX A**

4                   **RELEVANT PORTIONS OF THE CARRIER CONSENT DECREE**

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Case 2:05-cv-06022-ABC-FMO Document 29 Filed 04/25/2006 Page 1 of 328

ORIGINAL

1 SUE ELLEN WOOLDRIDGE  
2 Assistant Attorney General  
Environment & Natural Resources Division  
United States Department of Justice

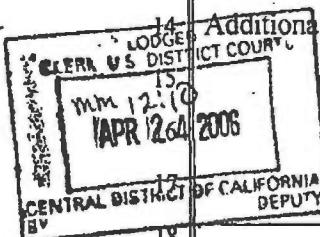
3 MATTHEW A. FOGELSON  
4 Environmental Enforcement Section  
5 Environment & Natural Resources Division  
United States Department of Justice  
301 Howard Street, Suite 1050  
6 San Francisco, CA 94105  
Telephone: (415) 744-6470  
7 Facsimile: (415) 744-6476  
E-mail: Matthew.Fogelson@usdoj.gov

8 ELIZABETH F. KROOP  
9 Environmental Enforcement Section  
10 Environment & Natural Resources Division  
United States Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 7611  
11 Ben Franklin Station  
Washington, DC 20044  
12 Telephone: (202) 514-5244  
Facsimile: (202) 514-2583  
13 E-mail: Elizabeth.Koop@usdoj.gov



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Additional Counsel Listed on Next Page



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
WESTERN DIVISION

18 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
19 Plaintiff,  
20  
21 v.  
22 CARRIER CORPORATION,  
23 Defendant.

Case No. CV-05-6022 ABC (FMOx)

AMENDED CONSENT DECREE

29

### III. PARTIES BOUND

2       2. This Consent Decree applies to and is binding upon the United States  
3 and upon Settling Defendants and their successors and assigns. Any change in  
4 ownership or corporate status of a Settling Defendant including, but not limited to,  
5 any transfer of assets or real or personal property, shall in no way alter such  
6 Settling Defendant's responsibilities under this Consent Decree.

7       3. Settling Defendants shall provide a copy of this Consent Decree to  
8 each contractor hired to perform the Work (as defined below) required by this  
9 Consent Decree and to each person representing any Settling Defendant with  
10 respect to the Site or the Work and shall condition all contracts entered into  
11 hereunder upon performance of the Work in conformity with the terms of this  
12 Consent Decree. Settling Defendants or their contractors shall provide written  
13 notice of the Consent Decree to all subcontractors hired to perform any portion of  
14 the Work required by this Consent Decree. Settling Defendants shall nonetheless  
15 be responsible for ensuring that their contractors and subcontractors perform the  
16 Work contemplated herein in accordance with this Consent Decree. With regard to  
17 the activities undertaken pursuant to this Consent Decree, each contractor and  
18 subcontractor shall be deemed to be in a contractual relationship with the Settling  
19 Defendants within the meaning of Section 107(b)(3) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C.  
20 § 9607(b)(3).

#### **IV. DEFINITIONS**

22       4. Unless otherwise expressly provided herein, terms used in this  
23 Consent Decree that are defined in CERCLA or in regulations promulgated under  
24 CERCLA shall have the meaning assigned to them in CERCLA or in such  
25 regulations. Whenever terms listed below are used in this Consent Decree or in the  
26 appendices attached hereto and incorporated hereunder, the following definitions  
27 shall apply:

28 "Basin-wide Response Costs" shall mean costs, including but not limited to

1 direct and indirect costs, including accrued interest, that the United States has  
 2 incurred or in the future incurs for basin-wide (non-operable unit) response actions  
 3 in connection with the San Gabriel Valley Superfund Sites, Areas 1 – 4.

4 “CERCLA” shall mean the Comprehensive Environmental Response,  
 5 Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 9601, et seq.  
 6 “Consent Decree” shall mean this Decree and all appendices attached hereto (listed  
 7 in Section XXX). In the event of conflict between this Decree and any appendix,  
 8 this Decree shall control.

9 “Day” shall mean a calendar day unless expressly stated to be a working  
 10 day. “Working Day” shall mean a day other than a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal  
 11 holiday. In computing any period of time under this Consent Decree, where the  
 12 last day would fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, the period shall run  
 13 until the close of business of the next working day.

14 “DOJ” shall mean the United States Department of Justice and any of its  
 15 successor departments, agencies, or instrumentalities.

16 “DTSC” shall mean the California Department of Toxic Substances Control  
 17 and any successor departments or agencies.

18 “Effective Date” shall be the effective date of this Consent Decree as  
 19 provided in Paragraph 117.

20 “Eligible SEP Costs” shall include the costs of implementing the  
 21 Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) required pursuant to Section XVIII,  
 22 but do not include Settling Defendants’ overhead, administrative expenses or legal  
 23 fees. Contractor oversight costs not exceeding 5% of \$468,750 may be included as  
 24 Eligible SEP Costs, so long as adequate documentation is provided.

25 “EPA” shall mean the United States Environmental Protection Agency and  
 26 any of its successor departments or agencies.

27 “Explanation of Significant Differences” or “ESD” shall mean the  
 28 Explanation of Significant differences relating to the Site issued by EPA on June

1 14, 2005. The ESD is attached as Appendix B to this Consent Decree.

2 "Future Response Costs" shall mean all costs that are incurred by the United  
3 States or any third party for response actions with respect to the Site after the  
4 Effective Date, but prior to the later of (i) the date 8 years from the Operational and  
5 Functional Date, or (ii) the date of issuance of a final Record of Decision for the  
6 Site. Future Response Costs include, but are not limited to, Basin-wide Response  
7 Costs allocated to the Site, direct and indirect costs and accrued interest that the  
8 United States incurs in reviewing or developing plans, reports, and other items  
9 pursuant to this Consent Decree, verifying the Work, or otherwise implementing,  
10 overseeing, or enforcing this Consent Decree, including but not limited to payroll  
11 costs, contractor costs, travel costs, laboratory costs, the costs incurred pursuant to  
12 Sections VII (Remedy Review), IX (Access and Institutional Controls; including  
13 but not limited to the cost of attorney time and any monies paid to secure access or  
14 to secure or implement institutional controls including but not limited to the  
15 amount of just compensation), XV (Emergency Response), and Paragraph 99 of  
16 Section XXII (Work Takeover).

17 "Interest," shall mean interest at the rate specified for interest on investments  
18 of the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund established by 26 U.S.C. § 9507,  
19 compounded annually on October 1 of each year, in accordance with 42 U.S.C.  
20 § 9607(a). The applicable rate of interest shall be the rate in effect at the time the  
21 interest accrues. The rate of interest is subject to change on October 1 of each  
22 year.

23 "Interim ROD" shall mean the Interim Record of Decision relating to the  
24 Puente Valley Operable Unit of the San Gabriel Valley Superfund Sites signed on  
25 September, 30 1998 by the Regional Administrator, EPA Region 9, or his/her  
26 delegate, and all attachments thereto. The Interim ROD is attached as Appendix A  
27 to this Consent Decree.

28 "Mid-Valley Monitoring" shall mean the installation and monitoring of

1 wells in the intermediate and deep groundwater zones in the mid-valley area of the  
 2 Site to monitor vertical and horizontal contaminant migration in such groundwater  
 3 zones, as set forth in the SOW. For purposes of this Consent Decree, the mid-  
 4 valley shall extend from Azusa Avenue to Puente Creek.

5 "National Contingency Plan" or "NCP" shall mean the National Oil and  
 6 Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan promulgated pursuant to  
 7 Section 105 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9605, and codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 300,  
 8 and any amendments thereto.

9 "Operational and Functional" shall mean that the Remedial Action, or a  
 10 phase thereof, has been constructed and that it is performing in accordance with the  
 11 applicable SOW and the applicable final Remedial Design/ Remedial Action Work  
 12 Plans and other plans approved by EPA.

13 "Operational and Functional Date" shall mean the date that all phases of the  
 14 Remedial Action are Operational and Functional pursuant to Paragraph 50.

15 "Paragraph" shall mean a portion of this Consent Decree identified by an  
 16 Arabic numeral or an upper case letter.

17 "Parties" shall mean the United States and the Settling Defendants.

18 "Past Response Costs" shall mean all costs, including but not limited to  
 19 Basin-wide Response Costs allocated to the Site, direct and indirect costs,  
 20 including Interest, that the United States or any third party has paid or incurred at  
 21 or in connection with the Site, through and including the Effective Date.

22 "Performance Criteria" shall mean the prevention of groundwater in the  
 23 shallow zone north of Puente Creek at the mouth of Puente Valley with  
 24 contamination greater than or equal to ten-times the levels listed in Table 2 of the  
 25 ESD from:

26 (1) migrating beyond its lateral extent as measured at the time the  
 27 shallow zone Remedial Action containment system is Operational and  
 28 Functional; and

1                             (2) migrating vertically into the intermediate zone;  
2                             for a period of 8 years from the Operational and Functional Date.  
3                             “Plaintiff” shall mean the United States.  
4                             “RCRA” shall mean the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C.  
5                             §§ 6901 *et seq.* (also known as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act).  
6                             “Remedial Action” shall mean those activities to be undertaken by Settling  
7                             Defendants to implement the shallow zone remedy north of Puente Creek and Mid-  
8                             Valley Monitoring, in accordance with the Interim ROD as modified by the ESD,  
9                             the applicable SOW, and the applicable Remedial Design/ Remedial Action Work  
10                           Plans and other plans approved by EPA.  
11                           “Remedial Action Work Plan” shall mean the document developed pursuant  
12                           to Paragraph 11 of this Consent Decree and approved by EPA, and any  
13                           amendments thereto.  
14                           “Remedial Design” shall mean those activities to be undertaken by Settling  
15                           Defendants to develop the final plans and specifications for the Remedial Action  
16                           pursuant to the Remedial Design Work Plan.  
17                           “Remedial Design Work Plan” shall mean the document developed pursuant  
18                           to Paragraph 10 of this Consent Decree and approved by EPA, and any  
19                           amendments thereto.  
20                           “Section” shall mean a portion of this Consent Decree identified by a Roman  
21                           numeral.  
22                           “SEP” shall mean the Woodland Duck Farm Supplemental Environmental  
23                           Project as described in Paragraph 62, or any alternative Supplemental  
24                           Environmental Project approved by EPA pursuant to Paragraph 63.  
25                           “SEP Implementation Plan” shall mean the document describing the SEP  
26                           and setting forth those activities required to implement the SEP.  
27                           “Settling Defendants” shall mean Carrier Corporation and United  
28                           Technologies Corporation.

1        "Site" shall mean the area of groundwater contamination in Los Angeles  
2 County, California, located in the geographic area designated on the National  
3 Priorities List as the San Gabriel Valley Superfund Site, Area 4 [see 49 Fed. Reg.  
4 19480 (1984)], and identified as the Puente Valley Operable Unit.

5        "State" shall mean the California Department of Toxic Substances Control  
6 ("DTSC").

7        "Statement of Work" or "SOW" shall mean the statement of work for  
8 implementation of the Remedial Design and Remedial Action at the Site, as set  
9 forth in Appendix D to this Consent Decree and any modifications made in  
10 accordance with this Consent Decree.

11        "Supervising Contractor" shall mean the principal contractor retained by the  
12 Settling Defendants to supervise and direct the implementation of the Work under  
13 this Consent Decree.

14        "Unilateral Administrative Order Docket No. 2001-20" or "UAO Docket  
15 No. 2001-20" shall mean the order issued by EPA to Carrier Corporation on or  
16 about September 13, 2001.

17        "United States" shall mean the United States of America.

18        "Waste Material" shall mean (1) any "hazardous substance" under Section  
19 101(14) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(14); (2) any pollutant or contaminant  
20 under Section 101(33) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. § 9601(33); (3) any "solid waste"  
21 under Section 1004(27) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6903(27); and (4) any "hazardous  
22 material" under the California Hazardous Waste Control Act Section 25100 *et seq.*

23        "Work" shall mean all activities Settling Defendants are required to perform  
24 under this Consent Decree, except those required by Section XXVI (Retention of  
25 Records) and Section XVIII (Supplemental Environmental Projects).

26                          **V. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

27        5. Objectives of the Parties. The objectives of the Parties in entering into  
28 this Consent Decree are to protect public health or welfare or the environment at

1 Decree.

2                   XIV. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLETION

3                 50.    "Operational and Functional"

4                 a.     Within 30 Days after Settling Defendants conclude that the  
5 Remedial Action is Operational and Functional, Settling Defendants shall schedule  
6 and conduct a pre-certification inspection to be attended by Settling Defendants  
7 and EPA. If, after the pre-certification inspection, the Settling Defendants still  
8 believe that the Remedial Action is Operational and Functional, they shall submit a  
9 written report requesting certification to EPA for approval, with a copy to the  
10 State, pursuant to Section XI (EPA Approval of Plans and Other Submissions)  
11 within 30 Days of the inspection. In the report, a registered professional engineer  
12 and the Settling Defendants' Project Coordinator shall state that the Remedial  
13 Action is Operational and Functional. The written report shall include as-built  
14 drawings signed and stamped by a professional engineer. The report shall contain  
15 the following statement, signed by a responsible corporate official of a Settling  
16 Defendant or the Settling Defendants' Project Coordinator:

17                 To the best of my knowledge, after thorough investigation, I certify  
18 that the information contained in or accompanying this submission is  
19 true, accurate and complete. I am aware that there are significant  
penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of  
fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

20 If, after completion of the pre-certification inspection and receipt and review of the  
21 written report, EPA, after reasonable opportunity to review and comment by  
22 DTSC, determines that the Remedial Action is not Operational and Functional,  
23 EPA will notify Settling Defendants in writing of the activities that must be  
24 undertaken by Settling Defendants pursuant to this Consent Decree in order for the  
25 Remedial Action to be Operational and Functional. EPA will set forth in the notice  
26 a schedule for performance of such activities consistent with the Consent Decree  
27 and the SOW or require the Settling Defendants to submit a schedule to EPA for  
28 approval pursuant to Section XI (EPA Approval of Plans and Other Submissions).

1 Settling Defendants shall perform all activities described in the notice in  
2 accordance with the specifications and schedules established pursuant to this  
3 Paragraph, subject to their right to invoke the dispute resolution procedures set  
4 forth in Section XX (Dispute Resolution).  
5

5 b. If EPA concludes, based on the initial or any subsequent report  
6 requesting certification, and after a reasonable opportunity for review and  
7 comment by DTSC, that the Remedial Action is Operational and Functional, EPA  
8 will so certify in writing to Settling Defendants.

9 c. If EPA fails to certify that the Remedial Action is Operational  
10 and Functional within 90 Days after a request, EPA shall be deemed to have denied  
11 the request, unless Settling Defendants agree to an extension of time. Settling  
12 Defendants may, at any time thereafter, invoke Dispute Resolution pursuant to  
13 Section XX (Dispute Resolution).

14 d. Nothing herein shall preclude Settling Defendants from  
15 requesting, and EPA from granting, pursuant to the same procedures set forth in  
16 Subparagraphs a-c of this Paragraph, certification that a phase of the Remedial  
17 Action is Operational and Functional; provided, however, that any such  
18 certification shall be conditioned on such phase remaining Operational and  
19 Functional at the time Settling Defendants request certification for the final phase  
20 of the Remedial Action. In the event Settling Defendants request certification that  
21 a phase of the Remedial Action is Operational and Functional, and such request is  
22 granted, the resulting certification shall not affect the Operational and Functional  
23 Date.

24 e. Upon approval of the certification report by EPA or pursuant to  
25 a ruling by the Court, the Operational and Functional Date shall be the date when  
26 the last report requesting certification of the final phase of the Remedial Action  
27 was submitted.

28 f. The Operational and Functional Date established pursuant to

1 this Paragraph shall not be affected if existing contamination greater than or equal  
2 to ten-times the levels listed in Table 2 of the SOW has migrated vertically into the  
3 intermediate zone and this existing contamination prevents Settling Defendants  
4 from meeting the Performance Criteria, provided the Settling Defendants are  
5 taking the response actions determined by EPA to be necessary to reverse the trend  
6 pursuant to the SOW.

7 g. Once EPA has determined that the Remedial Action is  
8 Operational and Functional pursuant to this Paragraph, the Operational and  
9 Functional Date shall not be affected in the event EPA subsequently determines,  
10 pursuant to Paragraph 13, that modification to the Work specified in the SOW or in  
11 work plans developed pursuant to the SOW is necessary to achieve and maintain  
12 the Performance Criteria, to meet discharge ARARs, or to implement Mid-Valley  
13 Monitoring.

14 51. Certification of Completion.

15 a. No later than 90 Days before, and no sooner than 120 Days  
16 prior to, the eight-year anniversary of the Operational and Functional Date, and  
17 upon Settling Defendants concluding that the Remedial Action is still Operational  
18 and Functional, Settling Defendants shall schedule a pre-certification inspection to  
19 be attended by Settling Defendants and EPA. The Settling Defendants shall submit  
20 a Facility Status Package to EPA which shall include, but not be limited to, all  
21 maintenance reports, performance reports, sampling results, and all other  
22 deliverables updated as appropriate to reflect the performance and condition of the  
23 containment and Mid-Valley Monitoring systems including all wells, pipelines,  
24 and treatment facilities. If, after the pre-certification inspection, the Settling  
25 Defendants still believe that the Remedial Action is Operational and Functional,  
26 Settling Defendants shall submit a written report by a registered professional  
27 engineer, in accordance with the SOW, stating that the Remedial Action is  
28 Operational and Functional. The report shall contain the following statement,